

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes April 24, 2006

Members Present: Joel Smith, David Jerosé, Tom Hodges, Sandy Thomason, Lisa Curran, Tom Shipman, Sharon Kucyk, and Commissioner Velma Boyd- Lawson.

Members Absent: Joe Reynolds, and David Faircloth.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

Guest: Jennifer MacDougall, Consultant
Recreation Resource Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Hodges called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MINUTES

ACTION: Sandy Thomason made a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Shipman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

TRAINING

Director Simpson introduced Ms. Jennifer MacDougall from Recreation Resource Services. Ms. MacDougall serves as a consultant and they are affiliated with North Carolina State University. There are six consultants across the state that provide technical assistance to all city and county recreation departments in the state. They will research information regarding programs, trends, parks, and budgets. They oversee grant administration and assistance for the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). They also host teleconferences at universities all across the state on a variety of subjects from gangs to accessibility.

Ms. MacDougall thanked the board for having her and told a little bit about her background. She grew up in Cary where she was involved with CASL and high school soccer. She went to N.C. State University and majored in Recreation. She has been with RRS for five years and serves a ten (10) county region. She asked each member to introduce themselves, give their length of service on the board, and what was the reason they were interested in serving on this board.

Members expressed a variety of reasons for wanting to serve ranging from baseball, tennis, fitness and health, to no particular interest. Members ranged from new appointees (several months) to those who have served for three years or more.

Ms. MacDougall talked about the changing face of recreation. For many years, sports was all that people thought about when you mentioned recreation. But today, recreation means different things and citizens expectations are higher as to what departments should provide; i.e. dog parks, skate parks, greenways, etc. She mentioned her work with Wake County Human Services and the formation of the “Partnership for a Healthy Wake” made up from representatives from each recreation department in Wake County and Human Services personnel. The group was formed initially to combat childhood obesity.

Ms. MacDougall made a power point presentation which included topics such as: how to be an effective advisory board member; benefits of parks & recreation; roles and responsibilities of board members; what they can do; being proactive; working as a team; a nine (9) point program for boards; issues and challenges and training opportunities. Ms. MacDougall also gave members a handout on the benefits of recreation which include: individual, community, economic, and environmental.

Several members asked questions during the presentation. They related to master plans for our parks, staffing issues, playgrounds and programs. Director Simpson fielded most all of the questions.

After the presentation, the group thanked Ms. MacDougall for coming. Director Simpson will include the handouts as attachments for the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.